



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

NMFS ANNOUNCES SEASON LENGTHS AND QUOTAS FOR THE 2005 SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTER COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHERY

The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Management Division announces the **FINAL** 2005 second and third trimester season quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on over- or underharvests from the 2004 fishing seasons, and the season opening and closing dates for the second and third trimester seasons of 2005.

| Second Trimester Season | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Species Group | Region | Opening Date | Closure date | Quota |
| Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw) | Gulf of Mexico | July 6, 2005 | July 23, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time | 148 mt dw (325,839 lb dw) |
| | South Atlantic | July 6, 2005 | None – Closes in 3 rd season | 182 mt dw (401,237 lb dw) |
| | North Atlantic | July 15, 2005 | | 65 mt dw (143,739 lb dw) |
| Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw) | Gulf of Mexico | May 1, 2005 | To be determined, as necessary | 31 mt dw (67,240 lb dw) |
| | South Atlantic | | | 281 mt dw (620,153 lb dw) |
| | North Atlantic | | | 23 mt dw (50,706 dw) |
| Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw) | No regional quotas | May 1, 2005 | To be determined, as necessary | 91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw) |
| Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw) | | | | 31 mt dw (67,681 lb dw) |
| Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw) | | | | 163 mt dw (358,688 lb dw) |
| Third Trimester Season | | | | |
| Species Group | Region | Opening Date | Closure date | Quota |
| Large Coastal Sharks- i.e., sandbar, silky, tiger, blacktip, spinner, bull, lemon, nurse, hammerheads (annual quota 1,017 mt dw) | Gulf of Mexico | September 1, 2005 | October 31, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time | 168 mt dw (369,711 lb dw) |
| | South Atlantic | September 1, 2005 | November 15, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time | 188 mt dw (413,362 lb dw) |
| | North Atlantic | September 1, 2005 | September 15, 2005 11:30 p.m. local time | 5 mt dw (10,582 lb dw) |
| Small Coastal Sharks- i.e., Atlantic sharpnose, finetooth, blacknose, bonnethead (annual quota 454 mt dw) | Gulf of Mexico | September 1, 2005 | To be determined, as necessary | 32 mt dw (69,885 lb dw) |
| | South Atlantic | | | 201.1 mt dw (443,345 lb dw) |
| | North Atlantic | | | 16 mt dw (35,053 lb dw) |
| Blue sharks (annual quota 273 mt dw) | No regional quotas | September 1, 2005 | To be determined, as necessary | 91 mt dw (200,619 lb dw) |
| Porbeagle sharks (annual quota 92 mt dw) | | | | 31 mt dw (67,681 lb dw) |
| Pelagic sharks other than blue or porbeagle (annual quota 488 mt dw) | | | | 163 mt dw (358,688 lb dw) |

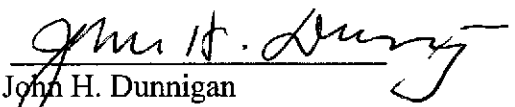


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A proposed rule to adjust the quotas based on over- or underharvests, and announce the season opening and closing dates published on March 10, 2005 (69 FR 11922). NMFS held a single public hearing on March 21, 2005, to receive comments from fishery participants and the public. Responses to comments are provided in the final rule.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information on this final rule, contact Chris Rilling, Karyl Brewster-Geisz at 301-713-2347. Copies of the final rule are available upon request from the Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (phone: 301-713-2347, fax: 301-713-1917). The information will also be posted on the HMS website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/>.


John H. Dunnigan
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4/18/05
Date